

B172

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C12N 15/12, C07K 14/47, 16/18, C12Q 1/68, G01N 33/68		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/38970
			(43) International Publication Date: 5 August 1999 (05.08.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/IL99/00036 (22) International Filing Date: 21 January 1999 (21.01.99) (30) Priority Data: 123098 29 January 1998 (29.01.98) IL (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGIES LTD. [IL/IL]; Senate Building, Technion City, 32000 Haifa (IL). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ADMON, Arie [IL/IL]; Deganiot Street 67, 36054 Kiryat Tivon (IL). PALTIELI, Yoav [IL/IL]; Einstein Street 75, 34602 Haifa (IL). SLOTKY, Ronit [IL/IL]; Galgal Street 8, 34467 Haifa (IL). MANDEL, Silvia [IL/IL]; Lea Street 28/1, 34403 Haifa (IL). (74) Agent: REINHOLD COHN AND PARTNERS; P.O. Box 4060, 61040 Tel Aviv (IL).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	
(54) Title: PLACENTAL PROTEIN 13			
(57) Abstract			
The full amino acid and DNA sequences of placental protein 13 (PP13) are disclosed. Also described are various PP13 derived peptide fragments, and a recombinant method for the production of PP13. PP13 may be used in a screening and a diagnostic method for pregnancy-related complications.			

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LJ	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

PLACENTAL PROTEIN 13

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a placental protein and its uses.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 References referred to in the text by a number enclosed by parenthesis are listed at the end of the specification.

 The goal of pregnancy management is the delivery of a mature, healthy infant, without encountering complications which can adversely affect the well being of both the mother and the newborn. A significant percentage of pregnancies
10 are affected by various disorders. Among these complications are preterm labor and delivery, intrauterine growth retardation and preeclampsia. These conditions negatively impact the outcome of affected pregnancies, at enormous cost both to the patients as well as to the health system.

 Placental Protein 13 (PP13) is a protein which was previously isolated
15 from human placental tissue (U.S. 4,500,451 to Bohn, *et al.*, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference). The protein was characterized by the following parameters: electrophoretic mobility, isoelectric point, sedimentation coefficient, molecular weight determined by ultracentrifugation, molecular weight determined by SDS-PAGE, extinction coefficient and carbohydrate content. The
20 amino acid composition (residues per 100 residues) was determined but not the amino acid sequence.

 PP13 was used to develop an assay for the early stage detection of three specific pregnancy-related disorders: intrauterine growth retardation, preeclampsia

- 2 -

and preterm delivery (U.S. 5,198,366 to Silberman). Both a radioimmunoassay (RIA) and an enzyme-linked immunoassay (ELISA) are disclosed using labeled PP13 and anti PP13 antiserum, respectively. No further properties of PP13 are disclosed in the Silberman patent.

5**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is an object of the present invention to provide a pure PP13 protein.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a DNA molecule encoding PP13.

10

It is a still further object of the invention to provide a recombinant method for producing PP13.

Additionally, it is an object of the present invention to provide a diagnostic assay based on PP13 for the early detection of pregnancy complications.

15

It is another object of the invention to provide immunogenic peptides derived from PP13 which can be used in such a diagnostic assay.

20

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a protein or polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: (a) Placental Protein 13 (PP13) having the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2 (SEQ.ID.NO: 9); (b) a polypeptide having a sequence of amino acids included in PP13 and which binds to antibodies which specifically bind to PP13; (c) a protein or polypeptide of (a) or (b) in which one or more amino acids have been added, deleted or replaced without reducing the ability of the protein or polypeptide to bind antibodies which specifically bind to PP13; and (d) a protein or polypeptide having an amino acid sequence including the amino acid sequence of (a) or (b) or (c).

25

By another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a DNA molecule encoding the above protein or polypeptide.

30

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of screening for pregnancy-related complications comprising the steps of: (a) providing a serum sample of a pregnant woman; (b) determining the level of PP13 or a peptide derived therefrom in the serum sample, and (c) comparing the determined level with pre-determined normal levels for women at the same

gestational age, a deviation between the levels being indicative of a pregnancy-related complication.

By one embodiment of the invention, the determination in step (b) is by means of antibodies, preferably monoclonal antibodies, directed against said
5 proteins or polypeptides.

According to yet another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a recombinant method for the production of PP13 comprising inserting said DNA molecule into an expression vector, inserting the expression vector into a host cell, and incubating the host cell under conditions which permit expression of
10 the inserted vector.

The present invention provides for the first time the full amino acid sequence of PP13, as well as its full cDNA sequence. This information can be utilized in a number of applications. For example, modified PP13 protein homologues and analogues can be produced in which one or more amino acids have
15 been added, deleted or replaced, the modified protein typically retaining 75% homology with PP13. Methods for modifying the amino acid sequence of a protein whose full sequence is known are well known in the art, and include e.g. chemical synthesis, controlled mutagenesis and recombinant methods. Such modified proteins may have superior properties over the natural PP13 in various applications,
20 such as superior immunogenicity or immuno-specificity (e.g. the modified protein may be devoid of immune epitopes common with other proteins) for use in an immunoassay for the early detection of pregnancy-related disorders as described in Silberman.

Furthermore, peptide fragments may be prepared from PP13 and such
25 peptides may be modified as described above with respect to the full protein. These peptides may also be used in various applications. For example, it is well known that immunogenic proteins have specific amino acid sequences or epitopes which induce the immune system to mount an immune response to the protein. The above peptides may be tested for the presence of an epitope of PP13 so as to identify the
30 epitope(s). A peptide containing an epitope may then be used in an immunoassay for pregnancy disorders. A number of PP13-derived peptides are disclosed below.

- 4 -

The pure PP13 protein or a derived peptide may be used to prepare antibodies to PP13. Either polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies may be produced by standard methods well known to the skilled artisan.

Both the antibodies as well as the proteins and peptides may be used to
5 prepare diagnostic or screening assays for the detection of pregnancy-related complications such as intrauterine growth retardation, preterm delivery and preeclampsia. Examples of such assays are detailed in Silberman, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, and include radioimmunoassays (RIA) and enzyme-linked immunoassays (ELISA). In general, such an assay will include
10 the steps of obtaining a serum sample of a pregnant woman, determining the level of PP13 or of a derived peptide in the serum sample by the immunoassay, and comparing the determined level with pre-determined normal levels for women at the same gestational age. A statistically significant deviation between the levels will be indicative of a pregnancy-related complication.

15 As mentioned above, the full cDNA of PP13 is disclosed here for the first time. Since the full amino acid sequence of PP13 is also disclosed, various DNA molecules encoding PP13 may be prepared due to the degeneracy of the genetic code. In addition, DNA molecules capable of hybridizing to these DNA molecules under stringent conditions may also be prepared. The DNA molecules
20 may be used in a recombinant method for the production of PP13. Such methods are well known in the art and usually involve inserting the DNA molecule into an expression vector such as a plasmid, phage or viral DNA. The expression vector is then inserted into a compatible host cell such as bacterial cells, or eukaryotic cells such as yeast, plant, mammalian or insect cells. The host cell is incubated under
25 conditions which induce expression of the inserted vector, thereby producing PP13.

For example, the DNA encoding PP13 can be inserted into an expression vector under the control of an inducible promotor such as the LacZ promoter, T7 or T4 polymerase promoter, heatshock promoters, etc. One example of an expression vector is the pQE expression vector (QIAGEN). The pQE vector
30 provides high level expression of proteins containing a 6*His affinity tag in *E. coli*. The pQE contains a regulatable promoter consisting of the *E. coli* phage T5

promoter and two *lac* operator sequences. The vector is then inserted into a competent M15 [PREP4] *E. coli* strain (Villarejo and Zabin, 1974). The M15 host cell contains multiple copies of the plasmid pREPA which carries the *lacI* gene encoding the lac repressor. The host cell is incubated with IPTG which rapidly
5 induces expression of the inserted vector, thereby producing PP13. Many other systems may also be used for PP13 expression, as is well known to the skilled artisan.

A kit for diagnosing pregnancy-related complications may be produced based on the present invention. Such a kit, for example, may comprise the following
10 components: (1) antibodies capable of specifically binding PP-13; (2) labeled PP-13, for example by a radioactive, fluorescent or enzyme marker; (3) PP-13 standard solutions at known concentrations; and (4) means for detecting the signal produced in the assay. Such means could be, for example, antiserum raised against the PP-13-binding antibodies.

15

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be better understood from the following detailed description of preferred embodiments, taken in conjunction with the following drawings in which:

20 Fig. 1 shows a partial nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence of a cDNA from the Expressed Sequence Tag (EST) database (accession R24614). Regions that are similar to the sequenced peptides are underlined. PP13 derived peptide #3 (Fig 1) was found to share partial identity with this cDNA (red underlined letters), and peptides #4, #5 and #6 are 100% identical to the EST
25 database sequence. The nucleotide sequence of the 390-bp cDNA is shown with a translation of the open reading frame (118 amino acids). A Kozak-like translation initiation sequence containing a presumptive start codon (ATG) at nucleotide 33 is labeled with an asterisk. Nucleotide numbers are shown on the left.

30 Fig. 2 shows the complete nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence of the PP13 cDNA clone as obtained from RACE analysis. The nucleotide sequence of the 611-bp cDNA is shown with translation of the open reading frame (139 amino

- 6 -

acids). Regions that are identical to the digested peptide are numbered and underlined. A Kozak-like initiation of translation sequence containing a presumptive start codon (ATG) at nucleotide 41 is signed with asterisk. Nucleotide numbers are shown on the left.

- 5 Fig. 3 shows the alignment of amino acid sequence of PP13 and eosinophil lysophospholipase (SEQ. ID. NO: 11). Identical amino acids of PP13 protein and eosinophil lysophospholipase (EPL) are designated by bold. There is about 54% identity between the two proteins.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Modified trypsin and LysC (sequencing grade) were from Promega. Trifluoroacetic Acid (TFA) and hydrogenated Triton X100 (RTX) were from Sigma.

- 15 Ammonium Carbonate (AC) was from Riedel-de Haen. Acetonitrile (ACN) was from BioLab. 5' and 3' RACE Systems were from Gibco BRL. pUC57 cloning vector (T-Cloning Kit) was from MBI Fermentas.

Sequencing the PP13 protein

- 20 The PP13 protein was immuno-affinity purified using rabbit polyclonal antibodies raised against placental proteins and affinity purified on the PP-13 protein. In order to further purify the PP-13 protein and to digest it with proteolytic enzymes, we used the method of Rosenfeld et al. (1992) as follows. The PP-13 protein was separated from other contaminating proteins by resolving it on SDS-PAGE in a mini gel format (10x10cm) followed by fixing the gel and staining
- 25 the gel with Coomassie brilliant blue. The gel was destained in 40% ethanol + 10% acetic acid. The stained gel band containing the PP-13 protein was cut out with a clean razor blade and washed with 50% acetonitrile (ACN) + 200mM Ammonium Carbonate (AC) in water. This treatment was performed in order to remove as much as possible of the SDS, Coomassie brilliant blue and acetic acid. The washed gel
- 30 piece was air dried for 30 minutes and rehydrated by adding to it 50-100 µl of 200 mM AC + 1% RTX buffer containing 0.5 µgr modified trypsin or 0.5 µgr of LysC.

- 7 -

After incubation with gentle shaking at 37°C for 12 hours the proteolytic peptides released from the PP-13 protein were eluted from the gel piece by shaking it twice in 100 µl of 0.1% TFA + 60% ACN at room temperature for 60 min. The solution was separated from the gel piece by centrifugation and dried down in a Speed-Vac to remove excess ACN. The proteolytic peptides were resolved by Reverse-phase HPLC on a Vydac 1x150 mm, C18, 300 .column with a linear gradient from 4% ACN + 0.1% TFA to 60% ACN + 0.085% TFA at room temperature with a flow rate of 40 µl/min. The elution pattern of the peptides was determined by UV absorbance at 214 nm and fractions containing peptides were collected by hand into microfuge tube and stored at -80°C. Some of the fractions containing peptides were sequenced on a Protein-Peptide Sequencer (models 476A and 494A, Perkin Elmer) using the manufacturer's standard Edman chemistry and cycles.

cDNA 3' and 5' ends analysis

In order to isolate the full cDNA sequence of the PP-13 gene, we used a standard method called Rapid Amplification of cDNA Ends (RACE) (2) to extend both the 5' and 3' ends of the known parts of the cDNA to its ends. Generally, the RACE method generates cDNA by using a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to amplify copies of the region between known segments of the cDNA at specific points in the transcript and its 3' or 5' ends. This was accomplished by making copies of the cDNA between synthetic DNA primers complementary to known segments of the message to primers that anneal to the ends of the cDNA.

For the 3' prime end determination, reverse transcriptase (RT) reaction was carried out using 4 µgr of total placental RNA (prepared by TRI reagent from Molecular Research Center, Inc.) and the 3' end primer: (106ras) 5'- ggc cac gcg tcg act agt act ttt ttt ttt tt - 3'. This was followed by a PCR reaction between the primers: (107ras for the forward reaction) 5'- ggc cac gcg tcg act agt ac - 3' and the reverse primer (100rs, homologous to peptide # 4) was 5'- ggg ata tgg atg ttg gag gag ac - 3'. The PCR reaction included 2.5 mM MgCl₂, denaturation at 94°C for 45", primer annealing at 60°C for 45" and primer extension at 72°C for 2 min. for 35 cycles.

For the 5' end determination the RT reaction was carried out with 4 µgr

of total placental RNA and a specific 3' primer (101ras): 5'- gtc tcc tcc aac atc cat atc - 3'. The 5' end of the cDNA was extended by adding to it poly-dC using the RACE protocol and reagents (Gibco BRL). This was followed by a PCR reaction using conditions as above and the following primers: a backward primer with the
5 abridged anchor primer (AAP) supplied by Gibco BRL and the forward reaction primer 101rs described above.

The resulting PCR fragments were inserted into the pUC57-T cloning vector (T-Cloning Kit #K1212 MBI Fermentas) and clones containing the insert were selected and sequenced by automated DNA at the Biological Services at the
10 Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel.

RESULTS

Identification of peptides from PP13 Protein

In order to either clone the gene encoding the PP-13 protein or to
15 identify its gene in one of the data banks, it was necessary to obtain the primary amino acid sequence of the PP-13 protein. Since the PP13 protein was blocked at its amino terminus, internal amino acid sequences were obtained after proteolytically digesting the protein into peptide fragments. These peptides were separated and purified by chromatography using reverse-phase HPLC, and some of the resolved
20 peptides were sequenced. The amino acid sequences of the peptides that were successfully sequenced are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Amino acid sequences of PP13 derived peptide fragments obtained after trypsin and LysC digestion as described above.

<u>Peptide number</u>	<u>Amino acid sequence</u>
1. (SEQ.ID.NO: 1)	LPVSLSVG
2. (SEQ.ID.NO: 2)	VIIK
3. (SEQ.ID.NO: 3)	GTPIHSFINDPQLQVDF
4. (SEQ.ID.NO: 4)	EFGIWMLEETTDYVPFE
5. (SEQ.ID.NO: 5)	QFELCIY
6. (SEQ.ID.NO: 6)	VHYNEY
7. (SEQ.ID.NO: 7)	GFVHR

Comparing peptides sequence to Data-Banks

DNA and protein data banks available through the Internet were searched for homology to the obtained PP-13 peptides sequences. A cDNA sequence (SEQ.ID.NO: 8) encoding four of the peptides fragments (Fig 2) was identified (EST accession R24614). The fact that homology to more than one peptide sequence was present in the identified cDNA indicates that this cDNA is likely a product of the gene encoding the protein which is the major constituent of the PP13 preparation.

The sequence was found in an EST data bank created by the University of Washington and searched through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) using the BLAST search program. The R24614 cDNA contains a Kozak-like translation initiation sequence and a 358 base-pair open reading frame (ORF) encoding a 118 amino acid polypeptide. The calculated molecular weight of the polypeptide encoded by the R24614 open reading frame is 13.9 Kda. Four of the sequenced peptides have homology to parts of the deduced sequence of the large open reading frame of the R24614 cDNA (Fig 1). The obtained amino acid sequence of peptide #3 was found to share partial identity with the EST cDNA and peptides number 4, 5 and 6 were identical to different segments of the ORF in the R24614 sequence.

Since the open reading frame sequence of R24614 obtained from the data bank did not contain the entire coding region of the PP13 protein, it was necessary to obtain the full cDNA sequence.

Identification of PP13 complete cDNA sequence

In order to obtain full cDNA sequence we used Rapid Amplification of cDNA ends (RACE). Using the RACE method with an internal specific primers homologous to the sequence from the region of peptide 4 previously found (Fig 1), we discovered the 3' and 5' end of PP13 message. The full PP13 amino acid sequence (SEQ.ID.NO: 9) and cDNA (SEQ.ID.NO: 10) are shown in Figure 2.

The full cDNA contains a Kozak-like translation initiation sequence and a 417-bp open reading frame encoding a 139 amino acid polypeptide, with a predicted mass of 15.1 KDa which is about the same size of the molecular weight of the PP13 protein as calculated from its migration in SDS-PAGE. The major open
5 reading frame of the full cDNA sequence contains all of the peptides sequence previously found by Edman sequencing of reverse-phase purified proteolytic peptides (Fig 1).

Resemblance to other proteins

10 It turned out that the novel gene contains sequence similarity to eosinophil lysophospholipase (3), a protein of known significance in immunity and pregnancy disorders (Fig 3). PP13 and eosinophil lysophospholipase have about 54% amino acid identity and 56% nucleic acid identity. The identity of the two proteins in the regions of the peptides, especially peptides number 4 and 6 is low, so
15 it is clear that these proteins are different, but the homology and identity might suggest they belong to the same protein family.

References:

1. Rosenfeld et al. (1992) In-Gel digestion of protein for internal sequence
20 analysis after one or two dimensional Gel Electrophoresis. Analytical Biochemistry, 203, 173-175.
2. Frohman, M.A., (1990) PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications (Innis, M.A., Gelfand, D.H., Sninsky, J.J., and White, T.J, eds.) p. 28, Academic Press, San Diego.
- 25 3. Ackerman, S.J., Corrette, S.E., Rosenberg, H.F., Bennett, J.C., Mastrianni, D.M., Nicholson-Weller, A., Weller, P.F., Chin, D.T., and Tener, D.G. (1993) The J. of Immunology, 150, No. 2, pp 456-468.
4. Villarego, M.R. and Zabin, I. (1974) J. Bacteriol., 120, 466-474.

CLAIMS:

1. A protein or polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) Placental Protein 13 (PP13) having the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2 (SEQ.ID.NO: 9);
 - 5** (b) a polypeptide having a sequence of amino acids included in PP13 and which binds to antibodies which specifically bind to PP13;
 - (c) a protein or polypeptide of (a) or (b) in which one or more amino acids have been added, deleted or replaced without reducing the ability of the protein or polypeptide to bind antibodies which specifically bind to PP13; and
 - 10** (d) a protein or polypeptide having an amino acid sequence including the amino acid sequence of (a) or (b) or (c).
2. A peptide corresponding to a sub-sequence of PP13 selected from the following group of peptides:
 - 15** LPVSLSVG (SEQ.ID.NO: 1)
 - VIHK (SEQ.ID.NO: 2)
 - GTPIHSEINDPQLQVDF (SEQ.ID.NO: 3)
 - EFGIWMLEETTDYVPFE (SEQ.ID.NO: 4)
 - QFELCIY (SEQ.ID.NO: 5)
 - VHYNEY (SEQ.ID.NO: 6)
 - 20** GFVHR (SEQ.ID.NO: 7).
3. A DNA molecule encoding the protein or polypeptide of Claim 1.
4. A DNA molecule according to Claim 3 having the nucleotide sequence appearing in Fig. 2 (SEQ.ID.NO: 10).
5. A DNA molecule capable of hybridizing to the DNA molecule of either
- 25** of Claims 3 or 4 under stringent conditions.
6. Antibodies capable of specifically binding the protein or polypeptide of Claim 1.
7. A method of screening for pregnancy-related complications comprising the steps of:
 - 30** (a) providing a serum sample of a pregnant woman;

- (b) determining the level of the protein of Claim 1(a) or the polypeptide of Claim 1(b) in the serum sample; and
- (c) comparing said determined level with pre-determined normal levels for women at the same gestational age, a deviation between the levels being indicative of a pregnancy-related complication.
- 5**
8. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the determination of step (b) is by means of antibodies capable of specifically binding the protein or polypeptide of Claim 1.
9. A method according to Claim 7 wherein said pregnancy-related
- 10** complication is selected from the group consisting of intrauterine growth retardation, preterm delivery and preclampsia.
10. A recombinant method for the production of PP13 comprising:
- (a) inserting a DNA molecule according to Claim 3 into an expression vector;
- 15** (b) inserting said expression vector into a host cell; and
- (c) incubating said host cell under conditions which permit expression of the inserted vector, thereby producing PP13.
11. A kit for diagnosing pregnancy-related complications comprising
- (a) antibodies capable of specifically binding the protein or polypeptide of
- 20** Claim 1;
- (b) labeled PP-13; and
- (c) PP-13 standard solutions.

* #3

1 caattctgaaggtcgccaagaaggagagaacaATGTCCTTCTTTACCCCTGCAGGTGGAT

M S S L P L Q V D

60 F Y T D M D E D S D I A F R F R V H F G
TTCTACACTGACATGGATGAGGATTCAGATATTGCCTTCCGTTTCCGAGTGCACTTTGGC

- #4

120 N H V V M N R R E F G I W M L E E T T D
AATCATGTGGTCATGAACAGGCGTGAGTTTGGGATATGGATGTTGGAGGAGACAACAGAC

#5 #6

180 Y V P F E D G K Q F E L C I Y V H Y N E
TACGTGCCCTTTGAGGATGGCAAACAATTTGAGCTGTGCATCTACGTACATTACAATGAG

Y E I K V N G H T H L R L C P I E S R H

240 TATGAGATAAAGGTCAATGGGCATACGCATTACGGCTTTGTCCCATCGAATCCCGNCAT

H L L K M G A S V R G D I F P G P S V C

300 CATTTGTTGAAGATGGGTGCAAGTGTCCGAGGAGATATCTTCCCTGGACNTCAGTGTGT

V L Q F ? G E M I H

360 GTCTTGCAATTTNAGGGGGAGATGATCCACA

FIG. 1

FIG. 2


```

PP13  1  MSSLPVPYKLPVSLSVGSCVI IKGTPIHSEFINDPQLQVDFYTDMD
      || |||||   ||| || | ||| |   || | ||||| |||
EPL   1  MSLLPVPYTEAASLSTGSTVT IKGRLVCFLEPYLQVDFHTEMKEE

```

PP13 48 SDIAFRFRVHF~~G~~NHVVMMNRREFGIWMLEETTDYVPFEDGKQFELCTY
 ||| | | | || ||| || | | | | + | ||| |
 EPL 48 SDIVFHFQVCFGRRVMMNSREYGAWKQOVE~~S~~KNMPFQDGGQEFEL~~S~~IS

PP13 95 VHYNEYEIKVNGIRIYGFVHRIPPSFVKMVQVSRDISLTSVCVCN
| | III | III | III III III III I
EPL 95 VLPDKYQVMVNGQSSYTFDERIKPEAVKMQVWRDISLTKEVNSYLKR

FIG. 3

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> DIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGIES LTD.

<120> Placental protein 13

<130> Diagnostic Technologies Ltd.

<140>

<141>

<150> 123098

<151> 1998-01-29

<160> 11

<170> PatentIn Ver. 2.0

<210> 1

<211> 8

<212> PRT

<213> Human placental tissue

<220>

<221> PEPTIDE

<222> (1)..(8)

<223> PP-13 derived (Page 8)

<400> 1

Leu Pro Val Ser Leu Ser Val Gly

1

5

<210> 2

<211> 4

<212> PRT

<213> Human placental tissue

<220>

<221> PEPTIDE

<222> (1)..(4)

<223> PP-13 derived (Page 8)

<400> 2

Val Ile Ile Lys

1

<210> 3
 <211> 17
 <212> PRT
 <213> Human placental tissue

<220>
 <221> PEPTIDE
 <222> (1)..(17)
 <223> PP-13 derived (Page 8)

<400> 3
 Gly Thr Pro Ile His Ser Phe Ile Asn Asp Pro Gln Leu Gln Val Asp
 1 5 10 15
 Phe

<210> 4
 <211> 17
 <212> PRT
 <213> Human placental tissue

<220>
 <221> PEPTIDE
 <222> (1)..(17)
 <223> PP-13 derived (Page 8)

<400> 4
 Glu Phe Gly Ile Trp Met Leu Glu Glu Thr Thr Asp Tyr Val Pro Phe
 1 5 10 15
 Glu

<210> 5
 <211> 7
 <212> PRT
 <213> Human placental tissue

<220>
 <221> PEPTIDE
 <222> (1)..(7)
 <223> PP-13 derived (Page 8)

<400> 5
 Gln Phe Glu Leu Cys Ile Tyr

1

5

<210> 6

<211> 6

<212> PRT

<213> Human placental tissue

<220>

<221> PEPTIDE

<222> (1)..(6)

<223> PP-13 derived (Page 8)

<400> 6

Val His Tyr Asn Glu Tyr

1

5

<210> 7

<211> 5

<212> PRT

<213> Human placental tissue

<220>

<221> PEPTIDE

<222> (1)..(5)

<223> PP-13 derived (Page 8)

<400> 7

Gly Phe Val His Arg

1

5

<210> 8

<211> 611

<212> DNA

<213> Human placental tissue

<220>

<221> gene

<222> (1)..(611)

<223> PP-13 clone R24614 (Fig. 2)

<400> 8

actggactca attctgaagg tcgccaagaa agaaaaaaca atgtcttctt taccctgtcc 60
atacaaaactg cctgtgtctt tgtctgttgg ttcctgcgtg ataatacaaag ggacaccaat 120
ccactctttt atcaatgacc cacagctgca ggtggatttc tacactgaca tggatgagga 180
ttcagatatt gccttccggt tccgagtgca ctttggcaat catgtggtca tgaacaggcg 240

tgagtttggg atatggatgt tggaggagac aacagactac gtgccctttg aggatggcaa 300
 acaatttgag ctgtgcatct acgtacatta caatgagtat gagataaagg tcaatggcat 360
 acgcatttac ggctttgtcc atcgaatccc gccatcattt gtgaagatgg tgcaagtgtc 420
 gagagatata tccctgacct cagtgtgtgt ctgcaattga gggagatgat cacactcctc 480
 attgttgagg aaatccctct ttctacctga ccatgggatt cccagaacct gctaacagaa 540
 taatccctgc tcacattttc ccctacactt tgtcattaaa acagcacgaa aactcaaaaa 600
 aaaaaaaaaa a 611

<210> 9

<211> 139

<212> PRT

<213> Human placental tissue

<220>

<221> PEPTIDE

<222> (1)..(139)

<223> PP-13 (Fig.2)

<400> 9

Met Ser Ser Leu Pro Val Pro Tyr Lys Leu Pro Val Ser Leu Ser Val
 1 5 10 15

Gly Ser Cys Val Ile Ile Lys Gly Thr Pro Ile His Ser Phe Ile Asn
 20 25 30

Asp Pro Gln Leu Gln Val Asp Phe Tyr Thr Asp Met Asp Glu Asp Ser
 35 40 45

Asp Ile Ala Phe Arg Phe Arg Val His Phe Gly Asn His Val Val Met
 50 55 60

Asn Arg Arg Glu Phe Gly Ile Trp Met Leu Glu Glu Thr Thr Asp Tyr
 65 70 75 80

Val Pro Phe Glu Asp Gly Lys Gln Phe Glu Leu Cys Ile Tyr Val His
 85 90 95

Tyr Asn Glu Tyr Glu Ile Lys Val Asn Gly Ile Arg Ile Tyr Gly Phe
 100 105 110

Val His Arg Ile Pro Pro Ser Phe Val Lys Met Val Gln Val Ser Arg
 115 120 125

Asp Ile Ser Leu Thr Ser Val Cys Val Cys Asn
 130 135

<210> 10

<211> 417
 <212> DNA
 <213> Human placental tissue

<220>
 <221> gene
 <222> (1)..(417)
 <223> PP-13 (Fig. 2)

<400> 10
 atgtcttctt tacccgtgcc atacaaactg cctgtgtctt tgtctgttgg ttcctgcgtg 60
 ataatacaag ggacaccaat ccactctttt atcaatgacc cacagctgca ggtggatttc 120
 tacactgaca tggatgagga ttcagatatt gccttccgtt tccgagtga ctttggcaat 180
 catgtggtca tgaacaggcg tgagtttggg atatggatgt tggaggagac aacagactac 240
 gtgccctttg aggatggcaa acaatttgag ctgtgcatct acgtacatta caatgagtat 300
 gagataaagg tcaatggcat acgcatttac ggctttgtcc atcgaatccc gccatcattt 360
 gtgaagatgg tgcaagtgtc gagagatatc tccctgacct cagtgtgtgt ctgcaat 417

<210> 11
 <211> 142
 <212> PRT
 <213> Human white blood cells

<220>
 <221> PEPTIDE
 <222> (1)..(142)
 <223> Eosinophil Lysophospholipase (Fig. 3)

<400> 11
 Met Ser Leu Leu Pro Val Pro Tyr Thr Glu Ala Ala Ser Leu Ser Thr
 1 5 10 15
 Gly Ser Thr Val Thr Ile Lys Gly Arg Pro Leu Val Cys Phe Leu Asn
 20 25 30
 Glu Pro Tyr Leu Gln Val Asp Phe His Thr Glu Met Lys Glu Glu Ser
 35 40 45
 Asp Ile Val Phe His Phe Gln Val Cys Phe Gly Arg Arg Val Val Met
 50 55 60
 Asn Ser Arg Glu Tyr Gly Ala Trp Lys Gln Gln Val Glu Ser Lys Asn
 65 70 75 80
 Met Pro Phe Gln Asp Gly Gln Glu Phe Glu Leu Ser Ile Ser Val Leu
 85 90 95
 Pro Asp Lys Tyr Gln Val Met Val Asn Gly Gln Ser Ser Tyr Thr Phe

100					105					110					
Asp	His	Arg	Ile	Lys	Pro	Glu	Ala	Val	Lys	Met	Val	Gln	Val	Trp	Arg
115					120					125					
Asp	Ile	Ser	Leu	Thr	Lys	Phe	Asn	Val	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Lys	Arg		
130					135					140					

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/IL 99/00036		
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 C12N15/12 C07K14/47 C07K16/18 C12Q1/68 G01N33/68		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 6 C07K C12N C12Q		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 101 603 A (BEHRINGWERKE AG) 29 February 1984 cited in the application see the whole document ---	1-11
Y	US 5 198 366 A (SILBERMAN MICHAEL) 30 March 1993 cited in the application see the whole document ---	1-11
Y	EP 0 283 606 A (TECHNION RES & DEV FOUNDATION ; SILBERMAN MICHAEL (IL)) 28 September 1988 see the whole document ---	1-11
-/--		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 25 May 1999		Date of mailing of the international search report 04/06/1999
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer HIX, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IL 99/00036

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>BOHN H ET AL: "PURIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF 2 NEW SOLUBLE PLACENTAL TISSUE PROTEINS PP - 13 AND PP-17." ONCODEV BIOL MED, (1983) 4 (5), 343-350. CODEN: OBIMD4. ISSN: 0167-1618., XP002103554 see the whole document -----</p>	1-11
Y	<p>THAN, GABOR ET AL: "Placental protein (PP5, PP10, PP12, PP13, PP17) levels in sera and in amniotic fluid during healthy pregnancy" MAGY. NOORV. LAPJA (1986), 49(1), 11-15 CODEN: MNLAA8;ISSN: 0025-021X,1986, XP002103555 see the whole document -----</p>	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IL 99/00036

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0101603	A	29-02-1984	DE 3230996 A	23-02-1984
			AT 38521 T	15-11-1988
			AU 555699 B	02-10-1986
			AU 1816783 A	23-02-1984
			CA 1213213 A	28-10-1986
			DE 3378414 A	15-12-1988
			JP 1693459 C	17-09-1992
			JP 3054680 B	20-08-1991
			JP 59059621 A	05-04-1984
			US 4500451 A	19-02-1985
US 5198366	A	30-03-1993	CA 1295939 A	18-02-1992
EP 0283606	A	28-09-1988	AT 78342 T	15-08-1992
			AU 599639 B	26-07-1990
			AU 7059187 A	22-09-1988
			ZA 8702145 A	26-09-1988